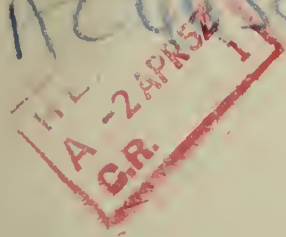


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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st., 1950.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE  
FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1950.  
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To :- The Chairman and Members of the Falmouth and Truro  
Port Health Authority.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for  
the year ending 31st December, 1950.

During the year I have paid one hundred and Sixty-four  
(164) visits to vessels of various nationalities entering the port  
from British and Foreign Ports, for the purpose of inspections,  
sickness on board, or for issuing pratique on account of contact  
with infected ports.

Infectious diseases on board were remarkably few, only  
two (2) of a mild type.

The number of deratisation and deratisation exemption  
certificates totalled 81; 5 being deratisation certificates and 75  
deratisation exemption certificates.

The vessels lying up in the River Fal are periodically  
inspected, no complaints having been found with regard to their  
sanitary condition.

The following details are mainly in tabulated form, and  
represent the work carried out by this Authority.

Permanent arrangements are entered but not reported on as  
these are constantly in operation, and have been reported from time  
to time.

Your Sanitary Inspector has carried out his duties  
efficiently and conscientiously during the past year; he has been  
of great help to me in performing the work required.



I would like to thank H.M. Customs Officers for their constant help in carrying out my duties, and the Staff of Messrs G.C. Fox & Co., who so kindly keep me informed of the arrivals and movements of vessels which need attention.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. CECIL DICK,

Medical Officer of Health.



TABLE "A".

1. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1950.

	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
<u>FOREIGN :-</u>							
( Steamers	112	301,070	48	108	52	52	
( Motor *	176	459,423	86	169	61	61	
( Sailing	-	-	--	---	--	--	
( Fishing	58	10,385	--	48	--	--	
TOTAL FOREIGN	346	770,878	134	325	113	113	
<u>COASTWISE:</u>							
( Steamers	226	312,036	12	198	89	89	
( Motor *	659	762,890	18	439	93	93	
( Sailing	1	57	--	1	--	--	
( Fishing	45	4,324	--	38	--	--	
TOTAL COASTWISE	931	1,079,307	30	676	182	182	
TOTAL COASTWISE AND FOREIGN	1,277	1,850,185	164	1,001	295	295	

\* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.





## II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE "B"

(a) Passenger Traffic during the year 1950.

Number of Passengers	1st. Class	2nd. Class	3rd. Class	Transmigrants
Inwards	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Outwards	Nil	Nil	Nil	

(b) Cargo Traffic.

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS : General Cargo by the Coast Lines Company's  
Ships; Coal; and general Food Produce.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS : General cargo, and china clay.

(c) Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive :-

Aarlborg	Dieppe	Keni
Abadan	Dakar	Karlstad
Antwerp	Dunkirk	Kiel
Aruba		Kotka
Amsterdam	Ersbjorg	Le Havre
Algiers	Emden	Lisbon
	Ernevelde	Lagos
Boulogne		Las Palmas
Brest	Fecamp	Malmo
Bone	Freemantle	Men-al-Ahmed
Baltimore	Freetown	Maracaibo
Bremerhaven	Flushing	Melilla
Bremen		Mena-al-Amadi
Bilbao	Ghent	Newport News
Bordeaux	Galveston	Nemour
Baton Rouge	Gottenberg	Norfolk V.A.
Bandar	Gothenburg	New York
Bahia Blanca	Gibraltar	Narvik
	Georgetown	Oslo
Calcutta		Oran
Curacao	Huelva	Port Lyaviyty
Cartagena	Hamburg	Portland Main
Coos-Bay	Houston	Palma
Cuxhaven	Horta	Port Jerome
Calais	Horfleur	Rouen
Cape Town	Halifax N.S.	Rjecka
Chingwangtao	Helsinki	Rotterdam.
Casablanca	Helsingborg	Sfax
Clarke City		Sousse
Charlestown	Java	St.Malo

- continued:- Sierra Leone; Stockholm; Tampico; Three Rivers;  
Tunis; Tripoli; Vigo; Vancouver; Varberg;  
Zeebrugge.

There is no direct passenger traffic.



### III. WATER SUPPLY.

(1) Source of Supply for :-

(a) The Port:

A large reservoir at Budock belonging to the Falmouth Town Council.

(b) For Shipping:

There is now only one supply: the Falmouth Town Council's reservoirs already described.

(2) Hydrants and hose-pipes. What precautions are taken against contamination ?

These are well flushed through before the water is passed into the tanks.

(3) Number of water boats and their sanitary condition.

There is now only one boat which attends on shipping in the Port. This boat is periodically inspected and has always been found in a satisfactory and healthy condition.

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### IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS 1933 and 1945.

(1) Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

H.M. Customs Officers and Port Sanitary Inspector collect the Declaration of Health from the Masters of Ships arriving in the Port. The Declarations of Health collected by the Customs Officers are obtained subsequently from the Waterguard Office by the Port Sanitary Inspector. In cases where vessels have sickness on board or have come from an "Infected Port" the Declarations of Health are left on board for the Medical Officer's examination and a record thereof made in a book kept by the Customs.

(2) Boarding of Vessels on Arrival:

Vessels are boarded upon arrival or very shortly afterwards by H.M. Customs Officers, and also on occasion by the Port Medical Officer and Port Sanitary Inspector.

(3) Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention (wireless messages, land signal stations, information from pilots, Customs Officers, etc.)

Arrangements have been made for the reception (and



decoding if necessary) of wireless messages sent direct to Port Health Officer and telegraphic address "PORTELTH" FALMOUTH has been registered by the Post Office.

(4) Mooring Stations designated under Article 10.

(a) Within the Docks

(b) Outside the Docks

(a) Wharf No.7 has been allocated as an Isolation berth.

(b) In St. Just Pool.

(5) Particulars of any standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14.

These comprise ships with infectious diseases other than Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever, or Small-pox, on board, and ships from Ports in areas listed under Article 11, unless they are carrying Cargoes of Grain or unless there has been during the voyage sickness or death among the crew or passengers, or unusual mortality among the rats on board. In all such cases the Medical Officer of Health is immediately notified.

(6) Experience of Working Article 16.

Notices have been given from time to time warning persons anxious to get aboard before the ship has been cleaned. The Customs Officers notify the Master when boarding that no person is to board or leave the ship until it has been released under the Regulation.

(7) What, if any, arrangements have been made for :-

(a) Premises and waiting rooms for Medical Inspection.

None.

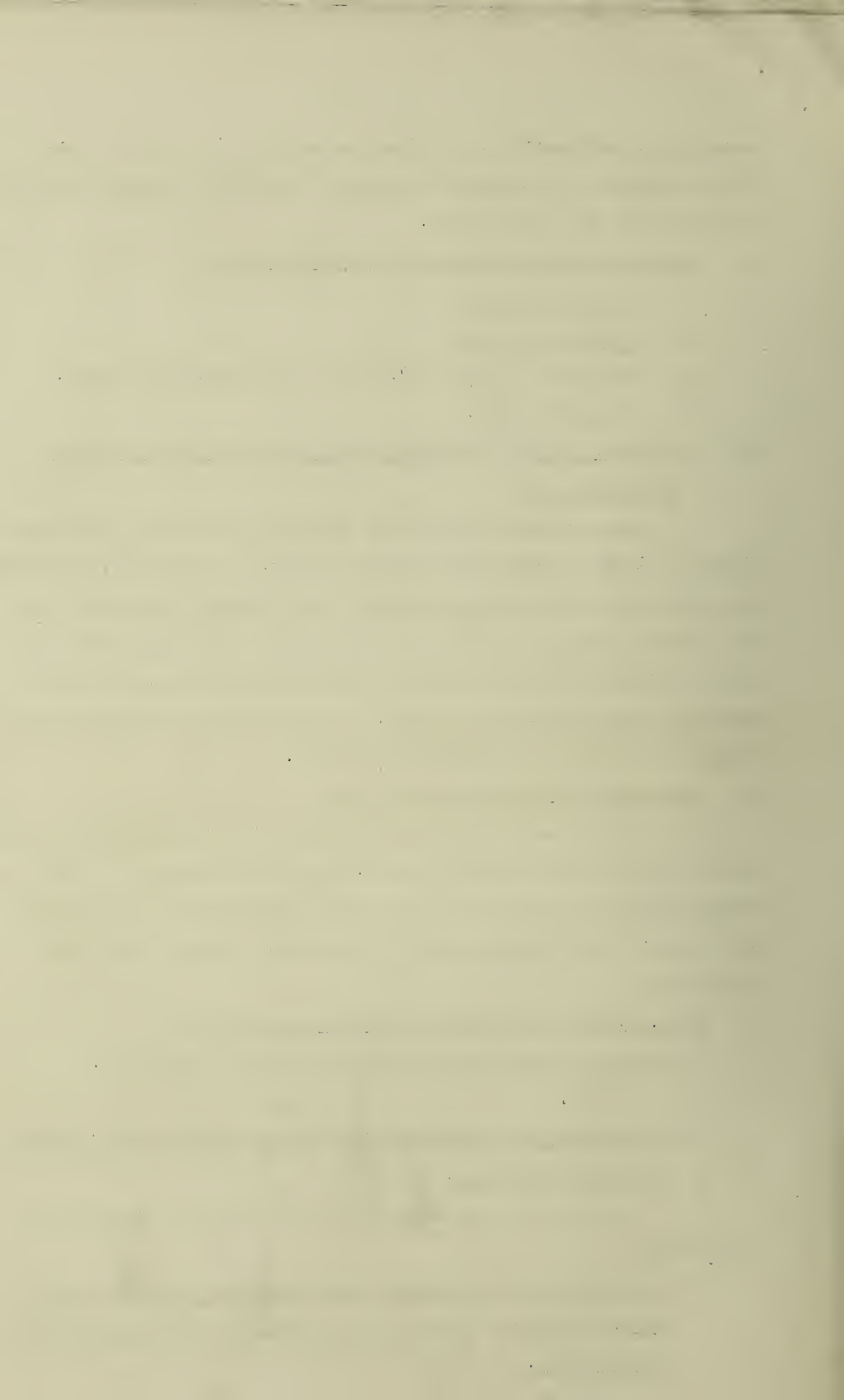
(b) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles.

Disinfection of accommodation on ships is carried out by spraying.

(c) Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for whom such accommodation is required for the purpose of the Regulations.

None available now.





- (d) Hospital accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other infectious diseases.

Truro County Isolation Hospital. For Smallpox, at the Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

- (e) Ambulance Transport:

By the County Ambulance Service.

- (f) Supervision of Contacts.

Notices are sent to the Medical Officers of the Districts concerned when contacts leave the Port. Those contacts that remain within the Port District are under supervision of the Port Sanitary Staff during the period of surveillance.

- (8) Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rats for Plague :-

Arrangements have been made with Dr F.D.M.Hocking, Pathologist to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, to examine rats for Plague.

- (9) Arrangements for other bacteriological or pathological examinations.

Arrangements made similar to the above.

- (10) Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patients treatment; also as to steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Cases now investigated at the Falmouth and District Hospital. Hours: Tuesdays 10 - 11 a.m. Saturdays 12 - 1 p.m. Treatment at the Falmouth and Truro Port Isolation Hospital.

- (11) Arrangements for the interment of dead.

Dead bodies on ships would be removed to the Town Mortuary and necessary action taken to secure burial and post mortem examination when necessary.

- (12) Other matters, if any, requiring or receiving attention.

None.





T A B L E "C"

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during Year		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years
	Passengers	Crew		
	None	one	one	2

T A B L E "D"

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of Cases during Year		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of cases for previous 5 years
	Passengers	Crew		
	None	None	None	None

#### V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

(1) Steps taken for detection of rodent plague:

- (a) In ships in port;
- (b) On quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the port.

Vessels, quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., are inspected for the evidence of rats: any dead or sick rats found would be taken and submitted for examination for Plague.

(2) Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ship & shore:

All ships are advised to place rat-guards on mooring ropes, and those ships found upon inspection to have rats on board are required to fix guards.

(3) Methods of deratisation of :

- (a) Ships
- (b) Premises in the vicinity of docks and quays.

(a) Deratisation of vessels under the International Regulation for the prevention of Plague, etc., is carried out by



private firms under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Inspector. H.C.N. sprayed on in an absorbed form for liberation.

(b) The rat population around the Docks has been materially reduced in recent years by special attention to sheds, warehouses, and other places of harbourage. 770 rats were destroyed on these in 1950, compared with 2159 in 1949. On board ships 93 rats were destroyed.

(4) Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore.

Special attention is paid to the work of detection of rodents on vessels, quays, docks, etc., in the Port and Borough. An experienced rat-catcher is employed by the Falmouth Docks Company for this work.

(5) Rat-proofing:

(a) To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses, etc., rat-proof ?

(b) Action taken to extend rat-proofing:

(i) in ships

(ii) on shore

(a) The Port Sanitary Inspector points out where rat-proofing is lacking, or could be improved, to Ships Officers and Marine Superintendents;

(b) Any holes, cracks and general dilapidations in concrete floors, etc., are reported to the Dock Company who repair such defects.

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TABLE "E" RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR (1) On Vessels.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Species not recorded	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73	-	18	-	93
Examined	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infected with Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE "F" (2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Species not recorded		122	)	)	169	)		192	)		287	)	770
Examined	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infected with Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Records kept quarterly													





T A B L E "G"

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels or Vessels from plague infected ports arriving in Port during the Year.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Total No. of such vessels arriving	Number of such vessels fumigated by SO <sub>2</sub>	Number of Rats killed	Number of such vessels fumigated by HCN	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which trapping poisoning, etc., were employed	Number of Rats killed.	Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat destruction were NOT carried out.
Nil	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil





T A B L E "H" \*

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates  
Issued during the Year.

Net Tonnage	No. of Ships	No. of Deratisation Certificates issued After fumigation with:					No. of Deratiza- tion Certifi- cates issued	Total Certifi- cates issued
		HCN	Sulphur	HCN & Sulphur	After Trapping Poison- ing, etc.	TOTAL		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Ships up to 300 tons ... ..	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
" from 301 tons to 1,000 tons	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
" " 1001 tons to 3,000 "	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
" " 3000 " " 10,000	72	5	-	-	-	5	67	72
" over 10,000 tons ... ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL ....	81	5	-	-	-	5	76	81

\* Applicable only to those ports approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926. (Form Port II).



## VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

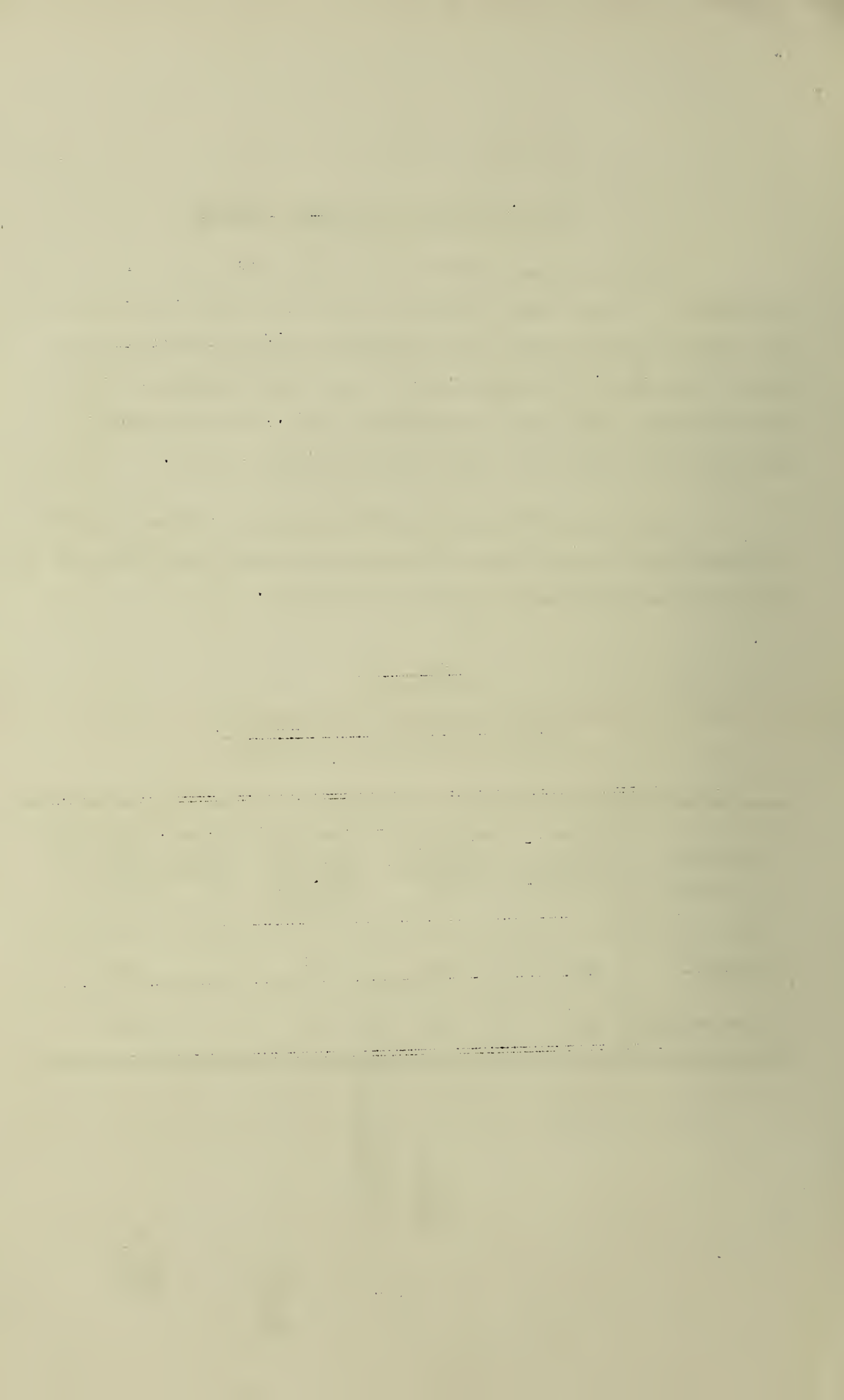
In this respect there has not been much cause for serious complaint. It was found necessary to have the Water Tanks cleaned out and fresh water taken aboard fourteen (14) ships calling here during the year. In other vessels it was found necessary to have the lavatories, bath rooms, forecastles etc., put in a proper sanitary state before the ships sailed from this port.

All other defects were quickly remedied, and on very few occasions had I to call upon the Captains of ships more than once and it was not necessary to serve any notices.

TABLE "J"

### CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel	Number inspect- ed during the year	Defects of original construc- tion	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	694	38	22	19
Other Nations	307	23	11	24



## I N S P E C T O R ' S      R E P O R T .

To :- The Chairman and Members of the Falmouth and Truro Port  
Health Authority.  
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Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1950.

SHIP INSPECTION: Vessels entering the Port are visited as soon as possible after docking, and enquiries made concerning the health of the crew, the occurrence of any sickness during the voyage, the source of the water supply, the condition of tanks and bilges and the presence of animals or parrots on board. The de-ratisation or deratisation exemption certificate is inspected, and if found to be in order the Inspector, accompanied by a ship's officer, proceeds to the examination of the sanitary condition of the vessel, pointing out any defects or nuisance and suggesting the remedy to be adopted. The majority of the shipping companies are always ready and willing to remedy any nuisance or defect on their vessels which have been brought to their notice by the Inspector. Serious defects to structure and defects of original construction are reported to the Ministry of Transport Surveyor.

During the year, 1,001 vessels were inspected and 295 of them were found to have nuisances or defects on board. It was not necessary to serve any statutory notices with regard to these vessels verbal and informal notices were given, as a result of which all the nuisances and defects were remedied before the vessels left the port again. 2,256 re-visits were made to vessels in connection with nuisances and defects, rat destruction, and to vessels from infected areas.

As shown in Table "J", 694 British and 307 foreign-owned vessels were inspected during the year, and of these 79 British and 58 Foreign vessels were found to have nuisances and defects on board.

### NUISANCES AND DEFECTS:

Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health





accounted for 43, and structural defects caused through wear and tear 33 of the total found.

DIRT, VERMIN AND OTHER CONDITIONS PREJUDICIAL TO HEALTH.

Dirty and verminous crews' quarters, foul water closets, choked scuppers, dirty food lockers, and accumulations of refuse accounted for the majority of the nuisances under this heading, and most of these conditions could have been avoided by the exercise of more care and stricter supervision of the crews.

The bed bug is the main type of vermin found in the sleeping quarters, but many vessels are found to be infested with cockroaches which find their way into most parts of the accommodation. When vessels are so infected with these pests disinfection is carried out by means of the 4-Cide method (pressure spraying) followed by the application of Gammaxene or D.D.T., or by fumigation with hydrogen cyanide.

STRUCTURAL DEFECTS CAUSED BY WEAR AND TEAR.

Defective port frames, linings, and broken glasses; defective heating apparatus, bunks, water closets, lockers, and leaky deck heads were responsible for the greater number of this type of defect, and many of these conditions were caused by misuse and lack of attention.

Other defects dealt with were defective wash basins, showers, floors, waste pipes, broken entrance doors, defective valves, taps, hand pumps, steam boilers, ventilators and sanitary tanks.

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS VISITING THE PORT DURING 1950.

American	...	...	2	Italian	...	...	7
Belgian	...	...	1	Indian	...	...	2
British	...	...	845	Norwegian	...	...	83
Canadian	...	...	1	Panamanian	...	...	22
Costa Rican	..	...	3	Polish	...	...	1
Danish	...	...	6	Russian	...	...	31
Dutch	...	...	98	Spanish	...	...	18
Eire	...	...	13	Swedish	...	...	15
Egyptian	...	...	1	Turkish	...	...	3
Finnish	...	...	4				
French	...	...	105				
German	...	...	5				
Greek	...	...	11				
				TOTAL	..	..	1277.





FOOD INSPECTION : FOOD & DRUGS ACTS 1938 & 1944.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS 1937 & 1948.

The inspection, examination and control of foodstuffs imported under the above regulations has been greatly facilitated by the co-operation of the Officers of H.M. Customs and Excise.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVE ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1925 - 1948. )

It was not found necessary to take any action under these Regulations during the year.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1926.

No importation of Milk to which the above regulations apply was made during the year.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1924 & 1948.

Helford River: There is apparently no risk of sewage pollution in this River except for some surface drainage high up at its source.

Percull River, St. Mawes: There is some risk of sewage pollution in this river, although precautions are taken as far as possible to obviate the danger.

Truro River: There is definite risk of pollution with sewage and surface water in the river. Oysters taken from this river bed are laid down elsewhere for cleansing purposes.

Penryn River: There is definite risk of pollution with sewage and surface water in this river. Oysters taken from the beds in this river are laid down elsewhere for cleansing purposes.

The majority of the Oysters are sent to London.

There have been no samples examined during the year.

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